



IN PROGRESS ONLINE

Office of Economic Development, Placer County, California

Vol. 7, No. 10

October 2006

North Tahoe Business Assn. Hosts 'Liveable ~ Walkable' Communities Workshops

Monkey Cat Restaurant Brings San Francisco Dining Flair to Auburn

Kaiser to Open Lincoln Medical Center

Grant Will Aid County's Small Businesses, Laid-off Workers

Roseville Adds a Best Western

Saddle Up for Loomis's Annual Cowpoke Fall Gathering

Maidu Center Offers Tours, Classes, Events for Families

Mountain Mandarin Festival Opens Satsuma Mandarin Season

High-speed Internet Comes to Lincoln Area

Ceronix Plans to Sell Video Screens in Russia

PG&E Offers Rebates on Energy-efficient Equipment

What's in Your E-Mail Newsletter?

North Tahoe Business Assn. Hosts 'Liveable ~ Walkable' Communities Workshops

Talk of redevelopment and reinvestment in Kings Beach has many residents excited that their town will get a facelift, but planning a community that is pedestrian- and cyclist-friendly is a priority for many. That was the consensus of the nearly 50 community members from Kings Beach, Incline Village, and Truckee who attended the first in a series of three free public workshops discussing how to create healthful, walkable, and resource-efficient communities. The October 5 workshop was hosted by the Design Committee of the North Tahoe Business Association. Paul Zykofsky of the nonprofit Local Government Committee, based in Sacramento, ran the two-hour workshop, giving participants a basic insight into 'Making Your Neighborhood Work and the Citizen Planner.' The next community workshop, to be followed by a BBQ and live music, is set for October 27, 5:30 - 8 p.m., at North Tahoe Conference Center, Kings Beach. The last workshop will be held November 9. For more visit Sierra Sun newspaper at

<http://www.sierrasun.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061005/NEWS/61004008&template=printart>

or the North Tahoe Business Association at

<http://www.ntbamainstreet.org/> or call (530) 546-9000.

[Go to top](#)

Monkey Cat Restaurant Brings San Francisco Dining Flair to Auburn

A year ago, Jim Brill, a 27-year veteran of the well-known Fior d'Italia restaurant in San Francisco, opened the Monkey Cat in a 100-year-old ivy-covered brick building located in Downtown Auburn. Since then the well-received restaurant has been chosen by Auburn Journal readers as one of the 'Best of the Best.' Sophisticated in its ambience -- decorated in the theme of the legendary, exotic monkey cat -- and consistent in its fine dining cuisine, Monkey Cat offers an imaginative menu of fish, meat, poultry, and pasta; signature salads; full bar and extensive wine list; desserts made by two local pastry chefs; the Palapa Bar, an outdoor dining and cocktail lounge; and banquet facilities. To support the local community, Brill says he tries to use local produce and products whenever possible. Monkey Cat, at 805 Lincoln Way, is open daily for lunch and dinner. For more, visit the Auburn Journal at http://www.auburnjournal.com/specials/best_of_the_best/story/?sid=16 Placer Magazine at http://www.monkeycat.com/placer_review.html or Monkey Cat at <http://www.monkeycat.com/> For reservations, call (530) 888-8492.

[Go to top](#)

Kaiser to Open Lincoln Medical Center

Kaiser Permanente opened a \$36 million new medical-office building in Lincoln on this month to serve its growing membership in the area. The 75,000-square-foot facility is part of Kaiser's plan to spend \$500 million to expand services to Kaiser members in south Placer County over the next decade. Kaiser membership in south Placer is currently about 186,000, but is expected to mushroom to 254,000 by 2010. Located near the intersection of Twelve Bridges Drive and Highway 65, the new building will house 32 doctors and a healthcare staff of 140. Services will include adult medicine, women's health, ophthalmology, optometry, pediatrics, physical therapy, radiology, a laboratory and pharmacy. The new offices will initially serve more than 36,000 in Lincoln and nearby communities. Kaiser membership in the area is expected to grow to 50,000 by 2010. For more, visit the Sacramento Business Journal at <http://sacramento.bizjournals.com/sacramento/stories/2006/09/25/daily13.html>

[Go to top](#)

Grant Will Aid County's Small Businesses, Laid-off Workers

The Placer County Office of Economic Development has extended a program that offers rapid-response assistance to small businesses in danger of closing permanently or laying off employees. The extension is funded with a \$15,000 grant, which follows an initial \$82,000 grant, from the Golden Sierra Job Training Agency and Golden Sierra Workforce Investment Board. Designed for businesses with 49 or fewer employees, the program can act as a referral service to help employers get the help they need to avoid or reduce the impacts of layoffs and to strengthen their businesses. Program resources include referrals for financial help, business-plan development, government contract resources, and recruitment assistance. The program can help laid-off employees through job-lead referrals, workshops, and no-cost job-search assistance. Special employment packets for laid-off workers are available at One-Stop Career Centers in Roseville and Auburn. For details, contact Marcy Schmidt at (530) 886-4641 or mschmidt@placer.ca.gov

[Go to top](#)

Roseville Adds a Best Western

Placer County's newest hotel, the Best Western Galleria Inn, opened this month in Roseville. The 83-room hotel features spacious rooms with wired and wireless Internet access, microwaves and refrigerators, business center, fitness center, shuttle services, and banquet and meeting facilities. A complimentary continental breakfast bar is available to guests. Located near the Galleria Mall, at 1398 E. Roseville Parkway, the inn is near restaurants of all kinds, recreational facilities, and top corporate businesses such as Hewlett-Packard and Intel. For details, contact Nicole Manucal at (916) 293-1908 or nmanucal@heritagehotelgroup.com or visit Best Western at <http://book.bestwestern.com/bestwestern/productInfo.do#null>

[Go to top](#)

Saddle Up for Loomis's Annual Cowpoke Fall Gathering

The South Placer Heritage Foundation presents the 12th Annual Cowpoke Fall Gathering November 10 - 12 at the Blue Goose Fruit Shed on Taylor Road in Loomis. The event features cowboy poetry and music performances by such noted cowboy poets as Baxter Black, Pat Richardson, and Dave Stamey. An opening night reception, at \$65 per person, includes food, a hosted bar, special surprise, and reserved seating for the show. An added event this year is a special matinee which will include student poets. On Saturday November 11, 3 to 6 p.m., a western-style barbeque, sponsored by Cattlemen's restaurant, will be served. The Cowpoke Fall Gathering is a benefit for the continuing renovation of the historic Blue Goose Fruit Shed. For details call (916) 787-0879 or visit <http://www.soplacerheritage.org>.

[Go to top](#)

Maidu Center Offers Tours, Classes, Events for Families

A preserved Southern Maidu village site in Roseville, Maidu Interpretive Center and Historic Site is a natural haven dotted with more than 300 bedrock mortars (acorn grinding holes) and petroglyphs (rock art), evidence of thousands of years of Maidu occupation. Guided tours of the site and Maidu Museum are offered Tues. - Fri., 10 a.m.; Sat., 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. The center has a full, changing schedule of exhibits, family weekend programs, campfire events, and 'old ways' classes. November's calendar includes Campfire Under the Stars (Nov. 3), Gourd and Pine Needle Basket Class (Nov. 4), Night Prowl (Nov. 11), Acorn Crafts (Nov 18), Archery for all Skill Levels (Nov. 18), Amazing Reptile Show (Nov 18), and Indian Museum Free Day (Nov. 25). The center, at 1960 Johnson Ranch Dr., is open Tues. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. For more, visit Maidu Interpretive Center at <http://www.roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum> or call (916) 774-5934.

[Go to top](#)

Mountain Mandarin Festival Opens Satsuma Mandarin Season

On November 18 and 19, the Mountain Mandarin Festival at Auburn's Gold Country Fairgrounds will open the foothills' annual mandarin season. At the festival, crisp autumn weather and a bit of fall color make a beautiful backdrop for food, crafts, and mandarins by the bushel. This is the place to stock up on fresh-off-the-tree Owari Satsuma mandarins, known as 'zipper fruit' because they're so easy to peel. Mandarin-themed recipe and centerpiece contests, live entertainment, free children's activities -- the festival is filled with food and fun. A commercial mandarin industry has been thriving in the foothills

since the 1960s, with about 50 growers today. The growers open their ranches for tours and sales November 27 through January 2007. For more visit Mountain Mandarin Festival at <http://www.mandarinfestival.com> or Mountain Mandarin Tours at <http://www.mountainmandarins.com>.

[Go to top](#)

High-speed Internet Comes to Lincoln Area

SkyHiCorp has announced it is bringing high speed internet access to the rural communities of Lincoln, Sheridan, Camp Far West, Wheatland, and other surrounding communities. Through a sophisticated and enhanced technology wireless network, SkyHi has built a high-speed broadband network to serve these residents. 'With around 43 percent penetration, broadband is growing at a phenomenal rate in the U.S.,' William Coleman, CEO of SkyHiCorp, said in a statement. 'Consumers in rural areas want and expect the same levels of communication services as in larger metropolitan areas. SkyHi is ready to meet their wireless broadband needs.' Starting last month, SkyHi Broadband began providing all customers with high-speed access. For more, visit the Sacramento Business Journal at

http://www.bizjournals.com/sacramento/stories/2006/09/04/daily23.html?from_rss=1

Lincoln News Messenger at

<http://www.lincolnnewsmessenger.com/articles/2006/09/28/news/city/03internet.txt>

or SkyHiCorp at

<http://www.skyhiwifi.net/>

[Go to top](#)

Ceronix Plans to Sell Video Screens in Russia

While visiting the Tolstoy museum in Russia last month, Don Whitaker, founder and owner of Ceronix Inc., based in Auburn, noticed a bowling alley across the street. Once inside, he found more than 70 Ceronix screens. That discovery prompted Whitaker to expand into Russia marketing the company's latest touch-screen technology as a replacement for thousands of old screens in casinos and game centers there. Ceronix plans to sell flat-screen liquid-crystal display monitors to Russian casinos eager to replace old bubble-shaped screens made from cathode-ray tubes. The new product is brighter and uses less energy. It seems the timing is good, noted a San Francisco market analyst, because the Russian government recently put a hold on any expansion of the gaming industry until regulations are adopted. Indications are, he said, that Russia will soon solve its regulatory issues, and that could translate into further growth in the gaming market there in 2007. For more, visit the Sacramento Business Journal at

[http://sacramento.bizjournals.com/sacramento/stories/2006/09/18/story6.html?](http://sacramento.bizjournals.com/sacramento/stories/2006/09/18/story6.html?b=1158552000^1346695&surround=etf)

[b=1158552000^1346695&surround=etf](http://sacramento.bizjournals.com/sacramento/stories/2006/09/18/story6.html?b=1158552000^1346695&surround=etf)

or Ceronix Inc. at <http://www.ceronix.com>

[Go to top](#)

PG&E Offers Rebates on Energy-efficient Equipment

Energy usage can have a huge impact on the cost of running a business. Pacific Gas & Electric offers its business customers hundreds of rebates on energy-efficient items. Rebates are a quick and easy way to get cash back on qualifying energy-efficient products. Virtually any type of business can take advantage of PG&E rebates-- food distributors, restaurants, retail stores, salons, offices, bakeries, and many more.

PG&E offers rebates on lighting, HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning), refrigeration, boilers, water heaters, food service products, agricultural products, and numerous general appliances. Energy-efficient equipment can reduce your energy costs while conserving natural resources. For more information, please visit www.pge.com/biz/rebates or contact Mary Post at map3@pge.com or (916) 386-5008.

[Go to top](#)

What's in Your E-Mail Newsletter?

In Progress Online (IPOL), our monthly economic development e-mail newsletter, covers the latest news on Placer County business and industry, agriculture, tourism, and the arts. It reports on new projects in our cities and towns and keeps readers up to date on the state of the region's economy. IPOL posts news of state and local training, incentives, and loan programs that benefit business. It provides links to more information on each item. News about your business is always welcome. Please send items, questions, comments, or suggestions to the Office of Economic Development at econdev@placer.ca.gov or visit the OED Web site at <http://www.placer.ca.gov/CEO/EconDev.aspx> For past In Progress Online newsletters, go to Placer County Biz News at <http://www.placer.ca.gov/CEO/Econdev/business%20news.aspx>